



Sisters of
St. Francis
of Assisi

NOJOSHING NOTES

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3221 SOUTH LAKE DRIVE, ST. FRANCIS, WISCONSIN 53235-3799 www.lakeosfs.org

*NOJOSHING is an Indian word. It means "Straight Tongue."
In 1849, the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi built their Motherhouse on land that was called Nojoshing by the Indians,
because it protrudes out into Lake Michigan like a straight tongue.*

Earth Echoes 2016 Education Series

The 2016 Earth Echoes presentations have been set and will be held the third Thursday of the month at Clare Hall, adjacent to the Motherhouse grounds, in the 4th floor meeting room, from 9:30-11:30.

All sessions in the series are free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. Parking is available in the lot just north of St. Francis Seminary.

January 21: Practical and Poetic Reflections on 'Laudato Si' by Pope Francis

Speaker: Sr. Marcia Lunz, OSF

Sr. Marcia will review and help attendees to understand Pope Francis' Encyclical on care for the earth. She is eager to explore how *Laudato Si* can take root practically in everyday lives.

February 18 Healing the Earth with Native Plants

Speaker: Dorothy Boyer

This presentation will give examples of home owners in the Milwaukee area who are planting native species in their yards to support insects, birds and mammals. Native plants in our own Deer Creek Restoration project will also be discussed, as well as the insects and wildlife they support.

March 17 Animals in the Christian Tradition

Speaker: Sr. Mary Lea Schneider, OSF

(pictured below speaking for a 2015 series program)

Two interrelated areas of this broad topic will be explored: 1) the nature, place and role of animals in creation and the question of whether or not animals go to heaven; 2) a brief history of animal protection movements, and the question of ethical treatment and the issue of animal "rights."

April 21 Project News and Updates

Speaker: Sr. Helene Mertes, OSF
& Others Involved in the Project

Now that spring is here, things are waking up and starting to grow again around the grounds.

Sr. Helene, and others working on the project, will provide an update on what's new, how things are doing, what is currently planned and what accomplishments are expected this growing season.



The Abundance of Jubilee - 2015

We continue to share some of the reflections of the Jubilarians in this newsletter. Once again, we congratulate each of the sisters and ask God to bless them abundantly each day.

70-Year Class

Sr. Humbeline Guenther

What a privilege to celebrate 70 years of religious profession during the year Pope Francis has dedicated to Consecrated Life! Following his suggestion, I look to the past with gratitude for God's call, for this Community for accepting me as I am, and for family and friends who walked with me. I look forward with confidence and joy to whatever God has in store for me.

60-Year Class

Sr. Donna Siegl

21st century woman religious –WOW!!!! A lifetime of being blessed! A lifetime of challenge, of accomplishments, of “still working on it!” How do you capture all of that, and more, in a few sentences? Impossible! (but said with a smile!) God has indeed been very active! From grade and high school teacher, to instrumental music teacher, to professional musician, massage therapist and chaplain for the past 30 years, God's invitation to me has been constant and rich – and in great variety!

AND, God continues to invite in this constantly changing world. Perhaps these few words should have begun with GRATITUDE for God's limitless generosity and loving compassion! All thanks to God! Deo Gratias!

60-Year Class continued in next column

Sr. Lourdetta Van Driel

Gratefully, I heard God's call to minister in a religious vocation in junior high years; but being the oldest girl in a family of 13 children, I decided to wait for an appropriate time to embrace that vocation and went to college. After entering the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi in 1952, I continued teaching at St. Mary's Academy for 11 years along with formation and other clerical assignments in summers. I obtained a master of arts degree in business education at Catholic University of America in summers.

After finance office work, teaching, assistant principal, I was also in charge of public relations and fund-raising, which was an enjoyable and interesting use of my business training. A move to Cardinal Stritch University gave me experience in alumni relations and coordinating enrichment programs. Then after 10 years as administrator of the Marian Center for Nonprofits, I had a sabbatical in which I took classes to update computer skills, and which included a wonderful study tour to Rome and Assisi. Following that experience, my active ministry concluded in 2010, and now I volunteer in a variety of ways.

I enjoyed teaching very much, but I am grateful I had a variety of other ministries, also. I have fond memories of the people I've met and the experiences and challenges I've enjoyed in each year of ministry.

Two of the Jubilarians for 2015 live in Baltimore and were not able to attend the celebration at the Motherhouse. Therefore, they were not pictured with their classes in the Fall issue. Their photos are included in the far column on the next page.

Sr. Catherine Morrissey (on the left) is a 70-Year Jubilarian, and Sr. Valerie Jarzembowski (on the right) is a 60-Year Jubilarian.

50-Year Class

Sr. Julianne Koch

How do I sum up 50 years of blessings, challenges, joys and losses in my life as a Sister of St. Francis of Assisi? Perhaps trust in the providence of God would be a start. Looking back, I see my religious life as a journey in trust. Responding to God's grace as best I could at any given time has brought me to a place of peace and gratitude.

That is what I celebrate in Jubilee. I could not have imagined what would happen on this journey, or who I would meet along the way. But I have been continually drawn into a deeper understanding of my vocational call in the living of it. It has evolved and continues to do so. I am at a hope-filled place in my journey and with my Community of sisters. The future lures my heart into a mix of mystery and grace and the love of a God who is forever faithful.

Sr. Rose Sevenich

The image of two threads, at first parallel and now intertwined, comes to mind as I begin this reflection. The first – God's ever present provident care. The second – the ongoing invitation to enter more deeply into relationship with the Trinity. The needle drawing these threads together is CHANGE. For 50 years, change has been permeating the consciousness and awareness of me and us, as a Community.

I am amazed at the evolving change in our understanding of church, society, world, universe. As I come to another crossroad, my curiosity is peaked. Who will we become? How will we evolve as we live more contemplatively and allow God's providence to be expressed through us in our future?

Sr. Adele Thibaudeau

Never did I realize 50 years ago that life as a Sister of St. Francis of Assisi would be such an adventure! Educationally, spiritually, artistically and relationally, life has been filled with abundant opportunities to grow in love and deepen my walk with God and the people of God. Some of those:

- The sisters who supported me as friends, teachers and mentors are amazing women, gifted, humorous and holy.
 - The services I was able to offer.
 - Receiving regular Spiritual Direction for at least 50 of these years to focus my life on the working of God's Spirit in my life. Annual retreats, along with frequent Mass and daily prayer, creative activities and Franciscan learning.
 - Serving on the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee, to educate about and participate in actions of justice.
 - Participating in interfaith ministry with Milwaukee's Jewish and Muslim communities, and fostering these learnings and the example of St. Francis with college students.
 - All these interests and the people with whom I have shared them have filled my heart with happiness, prayer, growth, change of attitudes, insights into the Scriptures, and God's overflowing goodness and mercy.
- I recognize all this has been gift! And I celebrate these 50 years with peace, joy and delight as I look forward to God's continued leading.



The Holidays at the Motherhouse

“The Stations of the Nativity,” with text by Lawrence Boadt, CSP, was the basis for a prayer service event sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi on Sunday, December 6.

Families were encouraged to come and experience another way to celebrate Advent. It was also an opportunity to pray with the sisters during this Year of Consecrated Life, as proclaimed by Pope Francis.

Refreshments were served and St. Nick was present with a gift for each child under the age of 14. The prayer service followed in the Clare Hall Chapel.



(At left) Sr. KD Strandell, who planned the event, is pictured with Larry Fox as St. Nick.

The sisters baked approximately 200 two-pound boxes of Christmas cookies to sell in the card shop as a fundraiser for the land use projects on the Motherhouse grounds.

Staff and sisters also contributed items to fill to overflowing 101 stockings for the Stockings for Soldiers Program. Memory Care sisters helped decorate the stockings and Motherhouse sisters helped them fill them.



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Please send comments / suggestions to:

Nojoshing Notes Editor
Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi
3221 S. Lake Dr., St. Francis, WI 53235-7193
or e-mail: jparrott@lakeosfs.org

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